

V. REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patent as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,937,298 in view of Biferno (U.S. Patent No. 4,562,433). A Terminal Disclaimer is filed herewith to obviate the rejection of claims 1 and 4. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Ozaki et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0031658) in view of Biferno (U.S. Patent No. 4,562,433). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ozaki teaches a pattern display device that includes a pattern display unit and a front side display unit. The pattern display unit has a display portion for displaying a plurality of different first patterns and is capable of performing a stationary display and a varying display. The front side display unit is disposed in front of the pattern display unit and is capable of displaying a plurality of different second patterns overlapping with the plurality of first patterns. The front side display unit is transparent except for the plurality of second patterns.

Biferno discloses a display system that includes a primary liquid crystal display and a secondary display. The primary liquid crystal display comprises a first liquid crystal display means located closest to a viewer. Information is presented to the viewer within an at least one information location on the first display means. A second liquid crystal display means is located at an effective distance behind the first display means. Substantially all of the second liquid crystal display means is energized to operate in a reflective mode simultaneously with the presentation of information on the first display means. A selectively energizable electroluminescent panel means is interposed between the first and second liquid crystal display means which provides illumination for the first liquid crystal display means when energized and is substantially transparent when not energized. The electroluminescent panel means comprises an intermediate layer of a transparent electroluminescent material held between two transparent electrode layers. The secondary display is located directly behind the primary

liquid crystal display such that, upon a termination of power to the primary liquid crystal display, the primary liquid crystal display becomes substantially transparent and the backup display then becomes visible to the viewer.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes variable display means for variably displaying designs in a plurality of rows and emitting light; and front display means disposed in front of the variable display means. Claim 1 recites that the front display means includes a liquid crystal display panel, a light guiding plate disposed between the liquid crystal display panel and the variable display means and having a plurality of openings formed therethrough corresponding to respective ones of the plurality of rows and a light source disposed adjacent a peripheral surface of the light guiding plate. Claim 1 recites that the light from the light source is guided via the light guiding plate to the liquid crystal display panel and illuminates a partial surface area of the liquid crystal display panel while the light emitted from the variable display means illuminates a remaining surface area of the liquid crystal display panel through respective ones of the plurality of openings of the light guiding plate.

It is respectfully submitted that that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a liquid crystal display panel, a light guiding plate disposed between a liquid crystal display panel and variable display means and having a plurality of openings formed therethrough corresponding to respective ones of the plurality of rows and a light source disposed adjacent a peripheral surface of the light guiding plate. Further, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests that the light from the light source is guided via the light guiding plate to the liquid crystal display panel and illuminates a partial surface area of the liquid crystal display panel while the light emitted from the variable display means illuminates a remaining surface area of the liquid crystal display panel through respective ones of the plurality of openings of the light guiding plate. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine

the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 4, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a variable display device that variably displays designs in a plurality of rows and emits light and a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device. Claim 4 recites that the front display device includes a transparent liquid crystal display panel, a light guiding plate disposed between the liquid crystal display panel and the variable display device and having a plurality of openings formed therethrough corresponding to respective ones of the plurality of rows and a light source disposed adjacent a peripheral surface of the light guiding plate. Further, claim 4 recites that light from the light source is guided via the light guiding plate to the liquid crystal display panel and illuminates a partial surface area of the liquid crystal display panel while the light emitted from the variable display device illuminates a remaining surface area of the liquid crystal display panel through respective ones of the plurality of openings of the light guiding plate.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 4 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a liquid crystal display panel, a light guiding plate disposed between a liquid crystal display panel and variable display device and having a plurality of openings formed therethrough corresponding to respective ones of the plurality of rows and a light source disposed adjacent a peripheral surface of the light guiding plate. Further, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests that the light from the light source is guided via the light guiding plate to the liquid crystal display panel and illuminates a partial surface area of the liquid crystal display panel while the light emitted from the variable display device illuminates a remaining surface area of the liquid crystal display panel through respective ones of the plurality of openings of the light guiding plate. Thus, it is respectfully

submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Claims 5, 6, 10 and 11 depend from claim 4 and include all of the features of claim 4. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons the independent claims are allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claims 7 and 8 are canceled and therefore the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Ozaki and Biferno in view of Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,745,199). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Suzuki teaches a liquid crystal display device.

Claim 9 depends from claim 4 and includes all of the features of claim 4. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 is allowable at least for the reason claim 4 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

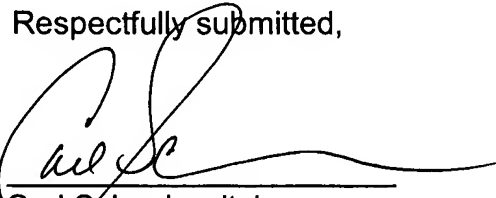
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


Carl Schaukowitch
Reg. No. 29,211

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
1233 20th Street, N.W. Suite 501
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 955-3750
Fax: (202) 955-3751
Customer No. 23353

Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Terminal Disclaimer